

1. An **personal** electronic apparatus for providing security of specified electronic transactions, the **personal** electronic apparatus comprising:

- a. an article removably inserted into the **personal** electronic apparatus, the article bearing machine readable code;
- b. customer-specific code installed on the **personal** electronic apparatus, the code affecting operation of the **personal** electronic apparatus;
- c. verifying means for determining whether the article is installed in the **personal** electronic apparatus, and, if so, for enabling specified electronic transactions, but, if not, for preventing said transactions;

whereby, upon a request for specified electronic transactions by the user, the **personal** electronic apparatus queries whether the article is installed, and, if so, enables specified transactions to be performed at the request of the user, but prevents the transaction from being performed if the article is not installed.

2. A purchasing method of purchasing goods and services via the Internet comprising the steps of:

- 5 a. a customer accessing a merchant's server and selecting desired goods and services and placing an order for same, the order resulting in the transmission of an order packet to the merchant and a bank packet to a bank's purchase server;
- b. upon receipt of the order packet, the merchant generating a merchant packet and transmitting same so that it is received by the bank's purchase server;
- c. the bank's purchase server matching the merchant packet with the bank packet using the common information as a key;
- d. the bank's purchase server checking for accuracy of both the merchant and bank packet and determining whether sufficient credit remains on customer's account to authorize the transaction;
- e. approving the transaction if step d is satisfactory, and transmitting an approval packet so that is received by the merchant.

3.2. A setup method for setting up a system to implement the method of purchasing goods and services via the Internet, the setup method comprising the steps of:

- a. providing the **personal** electronic apparatus of claim 1;
- b. creating a customer account at a bank pursuant to communication with the customer **and relaying to the customer a pin number that will be required in a later step**;
- c. creating customer-specific software at the bank, then splitting the software into a first portion, which is written to the article and a second portion which is transmitted to a bank download server;
- d. mailing the article to the customer, who then inserts it into the **personal** electronic apparatus;
- e. the customer contacting the bank download server via the Internet and downloading the second portion to the **personal** electronic apparatus, then the bank download server erasing the copy of the second portion from the download server, but retaining relevant information on a bank purchase server; and
- f. **upon provision of the pin number by the customer**, the **personal** electronic apparatus linking the first and second portions into working software on the **personal** electronic apparatus.

4. A billing method for billing customers for purchases made using the purchasing method of claim 2, the billing method comprising the steps of:

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a. upon completion of a transaction or a set of transactions, the bank sending an electronic communication via the Internet to the customer listing the purchase made and the total amount due;

b. the customer selecting a method of payment and responding with same in an electronic communication via the Internet back to the bank, and

c. the bank completing the payment pursuant to instructions from the customer in the response electronic communication.

5.3. The method of claim 3, additionally comprising the steps of:

- a. in step b of claim 3, providing more than one key code number, each key code corresponding to a sub-account depending from the same main account;
- b. providing additional steps in the code which require a customer to select the key code that is to be used for a specific purchase, then providing for that key code to be sent to the bank purchase server along with the bank packet; and
- c. accounting separately for the purchases made by a customer under each separate key code number.